

# **House fly collection S1537**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

March 31, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	Mason, Walt, 1862-1939
<b>Title</b>	House fly collection
<b>Date</b>	1919
<b>Extent</b>	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Text [Folder]</b>	S1537

### Preferred Citation

House fly collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Scope and Contents

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Only two small pieces of paper are in this collection. The undated paper states: "No flies mean a clean city. Cleanliness means efficiency, better homes, better schoools, better humanity, less sickness. Swat the fly." On the other side of that paper is: "Swat The Fly Week, April 28 to May 3."

The second paper is entltled "Journal of a Female House Fly," starting with its going into winter quarters on November 2, 1918, and coming out of winter quarters on April 20, 1919. Eight more dates are listed from April 21 through May 21, 1919, giving the number of eggs laid and hatched, with the final statement: "Left alone and unhindered, by Sept. 10, 1919, my descendants will number five trillion five hundred ninety eight billion seven hundred twenty million."

On the opposite side of the female fly's journal is this poem entitled "Swat the Fly" by Walt Mason.  
"Oh every fly that skips our swatters, Will have five million sons and daughters, And countless first and second cousins; Of aunts and uncles, scores and dozens, And fifty-seven billion nieces; So knock the blamed thing all to pieces."

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## Arrangement

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Only two small items are in this collection.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### **Custodial History**

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation.

### **Accruals**

No further additions are expected.

### **Processing Information**

Collection processing and finding aid completed 2015/03/12 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Subject(s)**

- Housefly--Broadsides--20th century
- Housefly--Poetry--20th century
- Musca domestica--Broadsides--20th century
- Musca domestica--Poetry--20th century